(c) in which crops GM trials are going on;

(d) whether some countries have imposed restriction on import of rice and groundnuts *etc.* from India;

(e) the kinds of GM variety of vegetables that are being grown in India and whether they have been tested; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No Sir. India is not on the defensive in agricultural trade due to field trials of genetically modified (GM) food crops. All field trials are conducted with biosafety precautions like physical and biological barriers as well as isolation distances as per Indian Minimum Seed Standards Certification to avoid the risk of transgenic contamination.

(c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has approved the conduct of field trials with GM brinjal, rice, okra, cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, potato, groundnut, and maize. The list of GM crop field trials is available at websites www.envfor.nic.in and *www.igmoris.nic.in*.

(d) No country has imposed ban on import of rice and/or groundnut from India as these crops have not been approved for commercial or trade purpose.

(e) and (f) No GM food crops/vegetables have been approved for commercial cultivation in India. However in accordance with the prevailing rules and guidelines, any company/institution involved in the development of GM crops has to undertake extensive biosafety assessment which includes environmental safety assessment as well as food and feed safety before the application for commercial release is considered by the GEAC.

Abundance of vehicles in Metro cities

†1898. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abundance of vehicles in Metro cities is turning to be a major reason of pollution alongwith it is also neutralizing the whole traffic system;

(b) if so, the action Government is taking to regulate it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The abundance of vehicles in metro cities has been a major reason of vehicular pollution. The ever increasing population of vehicles especially in metro cities has been undermining to some extent the positive effects of various pollution control

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

initiatives taken by the Government. The traffic pattern on Indian roads is highly heterogeneous and is responsible for vehicular pollution as well as adversely affecting the traffic system. Further, 23 metro cities contribute 35 percent of the total motor vehicles in the country.

(b) and (c) Various steps taken by the Government to regulate traffic management and contain vehicular pollution are mentioned below:—

- Bharat Stage III emission norms have been made applicable in 11 mega cities, namely, National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra) *w.e.f.* 01.04.2005 whereas Bharat Stage II emission norms have been made applicable in rest of the country. These norms would be made stricter *w.e.f.* 01.04.2010.
- Pollution Under Control norms for in-use vehicles have been made stricter *w.e.f.* 01.10.2004
- Restriction on the entry of trucks as well as interstate buses during peak traffic timings.
- Diversion of all interstate trucks and buses through by-pass roads thereby reducing congestion in the main city.
- Augmentation of infrastructure *i.e.* construction of flyovers, bridges, road networks and broadening of existing roads.
- Introduction of Bus Rapid Transport System (BRTS) in Delhi for the segregation of the traffic mix and uniform flow of the traffic.
- Restriction on entry of vehicles in very crowded market places like Chandni Chowk and Karol Bagh in Delhi.
- Procurement of state-of-art violation detection equipment system like vehicle speed detection cameras etc.
- Implementation of bus lane system and automated toll collection for buses.
- Regular conduction of mass awareness programme for encouraging public transport system, car pooling and fuel saving tips.
- Augmentation of mass rapid transport system (MRTS) all over the country in time-bound manner.

Waste in Hindon river

†1899. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the survey report titled 'Hindon ki vyatha-Katha' issued by Tarun Jal Vidyapeeth of Rajasthan according to which chemical waste of several industrial units such as cigarette, sugar, steel, electricity, wine, milk